

28th OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRON



LINEAGE

Constituted 28th Weather Squadron, 30 May 1945
Activated, 5 Jun 1945
Inactivated, 9 Nov 1945
Activated, 1 Mar 1949
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1971
Activated, 1 Jul 1980
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1991
Redesignated 28th Operational Weather Squadron, 5 Feb 1999
Activated, 17 Feb 1999

STATIONS

Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 5 Jun-9 Nov 1945
Bushy Park, England, 1 Mar 1949
South Ruislip, England, 7 Jun 1949
Bushy Park, England, 22 Mar 1951
RAF Northolt, England, 24 Oct 1962
RAF Mildenhall, England, 1 Jul 1980-30 Sep 1991
Shaw Air Force Base, SC, 17 Feb 1999

ASSIGNMENTS

Army Air Forces Weather Wing (later, Service), 5 Jun-9 Nov 1945
2105th Air Weather Group (later, 2058th Air Weather Wing), 1 Mar 1949
2nd Weather Wing, 8 Feb 1954-Jul 1971
2nd Weather Wing, 1 Jul 1980-30 Sep 1991

609th Air Operations Group, 17 Feb 1999

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1968 – 31 Dec 1969

1 Jul 1982 - 30 Jun 1984

1 Jul 1990 - 30 Sep 1991

EMBLEM

The blue and black background colors indicate day and night and are symbolic of the around-the-clock mission of the unit. The three lightning flashes are symbolic of the commands the squadron supports. The cumulonimbus cloud is a weather symbol. It is commonly known as an "anvil top" cloud and this is again repeated in the iron anvil. The arm and the hammer indicate the drive of the unit. Taken together, the arm and hammer, the iron anvil, the cloud and the lightning symbolize the forcefulness of the squadron. (Approved, 10 Apr 1959)

On a disc per pale Azure and Sable, a cumulonimbus cloud Argent, detailed of the field, emitting three lightning flashes, one to dexter chief, one to sinister chief and one to base Or, charged with an anvil of the second, issuant from sinister chief an arm of the fourth, detailed Nugget Gold, grasping a hammer, prepared to strike the anvil of the second, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "EYE ON THE SKY" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "28TH OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQ" in Yellow letters.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The background colors indicate day and night and symbolize the round-the-clock mission of the unit. The lightning flashes originally stood for the three major commands supported by the Squadron: Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command and Military Air Transport Service. Today, the lightning flashes represent the concepts of strategic operations, tactical missions and global reach pioneered by those commands. The cumulonimbus cloud is a weather

symbol, easily recognized by its anvil shaped top and emphasized by the iron anvil. The arm and hammer represent the drive of the unit. Combined, the arm and hammer, the cloud, the anvil and lightning symbolize the effectiveness of the 28th in supporting military operations.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On January 26, 1945, the commanding general of the Army Air Forces in the Pacific requested two mobile weather squadrons be activated for projected land operations in the theater's forward area. The Weather Wing constituted the 27th and 28th Weather Squadrons on May 30, 1945. The squadrons activated at Seymour Johnson Field, North Carolina, on June 5, 1945, and underwent intensive training. The squadrons were ordered to port for movement to the Pacific in August 1945, but the order was soon thereafter rescinded when Japan capitulated. Both squadrons were inactivated on November 9, 1945. The 28th Weather Squadron was reactivated on March 1, 1949, at Bushy Park, England to provide weather services for Air Force and Army units within the British Isles. The squadron was assigned to the 2105th Air Weather Group, redesignated the 2058th Air Weather Wing in October 1951. The 28th's predominant customer was the 3d Air Division which was activated in 1948 under the command of then-Maj Gen Leon W. Johnson, a member of the initial cadre of officers assigned to the Air Corps weather service 28 OWS had Deep Cold War Roots in England when it was formed in 1937 and a World War II Medal of Honor recipient. The headquarters of the 28th Weather Squadron was relocated to South Ruislip, England, near 3d Air Division headquarters, on June 7, 1949; but returned to Bushy Park in March 1951. The headquarters moved to Royal Air Force Northolt, England, on October 24, 1962. The 28th was reassigned to the 2d Weather Wing on February 8, 1954, in concert with an Air Weather Service overseas wing reorganization.

The 28th Weather Squadron's emblem was in use by 1952. The Air Force officially approved its use on April 10, 1959.

As one of seven weather squadrons eliminated as part of an Air Force directed Military Airlift Command programming action to reduce Air Weather Service command elements, the 28th Weather Squadron was inactivated on July 1, 1971, and its detachments assigned to the 31st Weather Squadron. Air Weather Service commander Brig Gen Albert J. Kaehn, Jr., approved a reorganization plan in 1979 that included reactivation of the 28th Weather Squadron, which he officiated on July 1, 1980, at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. Detachments of the 28th at Lakenheath, Bentwaters, Woodbridge, Mildenhall, Upper Heyford, Fairford, and Alconbury Royal Air Force stations were activated simultaneously. With the Air Force directed divestiture of Air Weather Service "to give mission commanders ownership of their weather support resources," the 28th Weather Squadron and its detachments were again inactivated on September 30, 1991. Under the Air Force Weather re-engineering effort, the 28th Weather Squadron was redesignated the 28th Operational Weather Squadron on February 5, 1999. The 28th was activated at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, on February 17, 1999, and assigned to the Air Combat Command's 609th Air Operations Group, severing its deep roots planted in England during the Cold War.

Both Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM took place in the Central Command's area of responsibility. The 28th Operational Weather Squadron (OWS), collocated with the Air Force's Ninth Air Force at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, assumed responsibility for that area, providing regional weather data as needed for both the U.S. Air Force and the Army.¹² The squadron furnished theater forecast data electronically to the combat weather teams that deployed, freeing them to concentrate on adapting the data to the missions at hand.



This unofficial emblem depicting the mobile mission of the 28th Weather Squadron adorned the unit's 1945 history report.



Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 15 Mar 2011

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

LINEAGE AND HONORS OF THE OPERATIONAL WEATHER SQUADRONS. Air Force Weather History Office. Offutt AFB, NE. Mar 2003.

WEATHER IN AIR CAMPAIGNS, 1990-2003 Daniel L. Haulman 24 June 2003